



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/447,312	11/22/1999	SCOTT D. BLANCHARD	IRI03844	3661

22863 7590 08/02/2004

MOTOROLA, INC.
CORPORATE LAW DEPARTMENT - #56-238
3102 NORTH 56TH STREET
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

EXAMINER

VAUGHAN, MICHAEL R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2131

DATE MAILED: 08/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

3

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/447,312

Applicant(s)

BLANCHARD ET AL.

Examiner

Michael R Vaughan

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner. *[Signature]*
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-27 have been examined and are pending. The amendments filed 5-14-02 have been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the language of the claims [claim 11] raises a question as to whether the claim is directed merely to an abstract idea that is not tied to a technological art, environment, or machine which would result in a practical application producing a concrete, useful, and tangible result to form the basis of statutory subject matter under 35 USC 101.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC ' 102

Claims 1-6, 16-19, 23-26 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hosford et al, hereinafter Hosford (USP 5,966,450).

As per claim 1, Hosford teaches applying error detection codes to each of the plurality of data packets (frames, see column 1, lines 19-23). Hosford teaches masking each data packet with masks (variable masks, see column 1, line 66—column 2, line 2). Hosford teaches that each mask differs and the order that they were created is maintained through a variable value such as a frame counter to preserve order (column 2, lines 11-15).

As per claim 2, Hosford teaches applying the mask to the data packets using XOR'ing (column 2, lines 9-10).

As per claim 3, Hosford teaches each of the data packets (frames) are masked with one of the ordering masks (column 1, lines 66-67).

As per claim 4, Hosford teaches the masks comprise randomly generated numbers (column 2, lines 4-9). A key is equivalent to a random number.

As per claim 6, Hosford teaches his system is implemented on a TDMA protocol (column 1, lines 15) and can be also used on wireline communication systems (column 6, lines 25-27). TDMA has a maximum latency variability. It is inherent that Hosford's systems will therefore have a sufficient number of masks so that the receiver can discern the proper order of the packets.

As per claim 16, Hosford teaches a packet receiver (column 3, line 10), a mask store (column 2, line 65—column 3, line 2), an unmasking device coupled to the mask store (column 3, lines 60-65). A mask store is taught by the fact that the sender generates a different mask for each data frame. An unmasking device is necessarily coupled to the sender and receiver because it is inherent that data can flow both ways. Therefore, both stations have the necessary resources to send and receive data masked data packets. Hosford teaches that data packets have error detection bits added (column 1, lines 20-23). Knowing this, the receiver inherently checks these error bits once the data packet is decrypted.

As per claim 17, Hosford teaches adding error detection codes data packets so it is inherent that the device can evaluate errors and take the appropriate action. A controller is taught Hosford where he describes both stations having a processor (column 3, line 25). Hosford teaches the masks must again be used to unmask the data packets (column 3, lines 10-14). This would require the unmasking device being coupled to the mask store.

As per claim 18, Hosford teaches the masks represent an order of transmission of a plurality of packets (column 2, lines 12-13). Hosford teaches a frame counter is part of the mask and is incremented after each frame.

As per claim 19, Hosford teaches the mask is a key generator capable of generating keys to decrypt encrypted packets (column 2, lines 3-8 and column 3, lines 10-13).

As per claim 23, Hosford teaches a packet formatted adapted to receive data packets and configured to supply formatted packets (column 1, lines 16-20), a forward error device coupled to receive the formatted packets from the packet formatter and configured to apply error codes (column 1, lines 19-23). Hosford teaches digitized speech frames have appended error detection bits. Hosford teaches a mask store (column 2, line 65—column 3, line 2). Hosford teaches a masking device to mask each of the formatted packets to which the error codes have been applied (column 2, lines 4-15).

As per claim 24, Hosford teaches a data packet formatter (column 1, lines 16-17).

As per claim 25, Hosford teaches the packet formatter comprises a vocoder (digitized speech frames, see column 1, line 19).

As per claim 26, Hosford teaches the masking device comprises an encryptor by teaching that the masking device performs encryption from randomly generated numbers (keys), see column 2, lines 4-9.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC ' 103

Claims 5 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosford in view of Weiss (USP 4,754,482).

As per claims 5 and 27, Hosford teaches the masks can be created from a cellular authentication voice privacy and encryption algorithm (column 2, lines 54-59). Hosford is silent in disclosing the encrypting of data packets prior to applying error detection. Weiss teach appending error detection codes to encrypted data packets (column 5, lines 2-9). The error detection codes would alert the receiver if the encrypted packet experienced a transmission error. It would be advantageous to know if a transmitted packet had any errors in it. In view of this, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ the teachings of Weiss within the system of Takamoto et al because it would allow detection of errors in transmitted encrypted data packets.

Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weiss in view of Hosford in view of Gross (USP 5,761,431).

As per claim 7, Weiss teaches a method of determining a packet order of a received packet comprising: applying at least one ordering mask to the received packet from a list of ordering masks to find a current ordering mask that was previously used to mask the received packet (column 6, lines 23-29). Weiss is silent in disclosing that the sequence numbers correspond to a list of masks having a known order. Hosford teaches that a unique mask is generated for each frame of data and generated masks are kept in order by a frame counter (see column 1, line 66—column 2, line 2). The frame counter is used to create the mask (column 2, lines 11-12). Using a frame counter to unique identify each mask frame provides a way in which the receiver can find the current mask. In view of this it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ the teachings of Hosford within the system of Weiss because using a relationship between the mask and the sequence number will allow the receiver can discern which packets have not arrived and allow the receiver to determine the correct packet order.

Weiss is silent in disclosing to delete older sequence numbers (masks). Gross et al teaches to remove stale data packets as they reach the top of a FIFO buffer (column 14, line 14). Discarding old data packets is necessary for receiver to remain ready to process the incoming data. In view of this, it would have been obvious to one or ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ the teachings of Gross et al within the system of Weiss because it would allow one to remove older packets (after determining with masks) from the list (buffer).

As per claim 8, Weiss teaches checking the incoming packet with a synchronous sequence number, checking for errors, and updating sequence numbers when no errors are found (column 6, lines 23-39).

As per claim 9, Weiss teaches to check the errors by comparing the calculated error code with an error code that the receiver calculates (column 6, line 30-35).

As per claim 10, Weiss teaches applying stored sets of CRC's to determine if the correct packet has been received. Preservation of order is being maintained (column 12, lines 49-65). The CRC's in the list would then correspond to a particular sequence number (mask) (column 14, line 14). Weiss also teaches that if a packet is received in error that the receiving process can continue without losing synchronization. This implies that the erroneous packet is discarded (column 14, line 48).

Claims 11-12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weiss in view of Dent et al, hereinafter Dent (USP 5,353,352).

As per claim 11, Weiss teaches a CRC list that is used to hold incoming data packets that are received out of order (column 12, lines 49-65). The CRC is computed from the sequence number of the receiver, which is synchronized to the transmitter

(column 15, lines 15-25). These numbers are used to preserve the order of the received packets.

Weiss is silent in disclosing the use of ordering masks. Dent teaches the combining error codes with a mask (column 9, lines 12-14). In view of this it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ the teachings of Dent within the Weiss because it would allow a two level ciphering system to improve the security of the system. The system of Weiss would still function as described now using the masks in place of just a CRC.

Weiss teaches the use of a buffer or list to hold these numbers as they are received. It is notoriously well known in the art how to search, traverse, add, and remove entries from buffers by setting pulling a data value from memory (temporarily) to compare it to another value. While the language in the claim is not exactly identical with the method described by Weiss to traverse a memory buffer, the outcome is the same. The lists of mask are each compared to a current received mask in order to determine which packet has been received and which order it belongs. Weiss also teaches to check the received packets for errors via the CRC (column 15, line 15).

As per claim 12, Examiner supplies the same rationale to combine Dent and Weiss. Dent's masks in the system of Weiss do maintain masks in a particular order. Weiss uses a sequence number which is correlated to the masks to preserve order.

As per claim 14, Weiss teaching of the use of sequence numbers in conjunction with the masks of Dent's system would determine that the lowest number received is the current order mask.

As per claim 15, Weiss is silent in disclosing the use of cryptographic keys in the masks. Dent teaches the use of cryptographic keys in the masks (column 23, lines 55-60). Again this increases the security of the system by requiring a key to be used to unmask the packets. In view of this it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ the teachings of Dent within the system of Weiss because it would only allow the rightful recipient to unmask the data.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weiss and Dent as applied to claim 11 and in further view of Gross et al (USP 5,761,431).

As per claim 13, discarding the packet because a new packet is received is not explicitly taught by Weiss. Gross et al does refer to this occurrence as a stale packet and teaches to discard this packet (column 14, line 14). This would help the receiver and transmitter to remain synched with one another. It is also beneficial to drop late packets in some types of communication such as voice. In view of this, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ the teachings of Gross within the system of Weiss because it would allow one to discard packets, which are older than previously received packets.

Claims 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosford in view of Dent.

As per claim 20, Hosford is silent in teaching that the masks are buffered used more than once. Dent teaches reusing masks in a set more than once (column 20, lines 32-33). If masks are reused then they must be preserved in memory. It would be advantageous to reuse masks to reduce the computational time required to constant regenerate for every frame. In view of this it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ the teachings of Dent within the system Hosford because it would allow the reuse of masks periodically instead of having to constantly compute new masks.

As per claim 21, Hosford explicitly teach the use of a pointer to keep track of the most recent mask pointer. Hosford does teach incrementing a frame counter. The frame counter essentially does the function of a pointer by indicating the last masked used because the frame counter is part of the mask. It would have been obvious to one or ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the frame counter as a pointer to keep track of the most recently use masks because the sender and receiver must stay synchronized. Maintaining synchronization requires the order to be preserved and allows the receiver to know the next expected mask to be received.

Claims 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosford.

As per claim 22, Hosford does not teach that a separation between the decryptor and the unmasking device. Hosford's unmasking device decrypts and unmask because supplies generating a mask (unlocking key) from randomly generating bytes (column 3, lines 10-14). The unmasking mask is essentially the same as a key to undo the encryption. In view of this it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ the teachings of modify the teaching of Hosford to incorporate a separate decryptor because it does not change the overall function of Hosford's system. Functionally they are equivalent if unmasking comprises the function of decryption.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael R Vaughan whose telephone number is 703-305-0354. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 703-305-9648. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

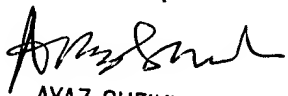
Art Unit: 2131

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MV
Michael R Vaughan

Examiner

Art Unit 2131


AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100